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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,
P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, OPR 02, E 15, NEA 13, AID 28, PC 04,
SCS 04, SCA 01, O 02, OC 06, CCO 00, SY 03, RSR 01, EUR 17, SSO 00, /178 W
071324

P 021727Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4601

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 2137

FOLLOWING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

P 021440Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY 714
INFO AMEMBASSY BAIDA 197

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY W4 DATE 12 JUL 1982
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS [ ]
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

(1)

C O N F I D E N T I A L BENGHAZI 634

SUBJECT: BENGHAZI STATUS REPORT 16:00 SEPTEMBER TWO

FOR BLAKE FROM LANE

1. AFTER VERY ACTIVE PERIOD 10:00 THRU 13:00 HOURS WHEN CURFEW LIFTED, COMPLETE CALM HAS RETURNED TO BENGHAZI. ARMY IS PATROLLING THE STREETS ENFORCING CURFEW AND THERE IS LESS INDISCRIMINATE SHOOTING THAN YESTERDAY AT THIS TIME. BREAD IS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND LOCAL ESSO MANAGER PREDICTS GASOLINE SHORTAGE WILL DEVELOP SOON. BENGHAZI TV WAS NOT ON THE AIR LAST NIGHT BUT LOCAL RADIO CONTINUING BROADCASTS OF STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

2. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE MONITOR ALL BROADCASTS OF RADIO BENGHAZI, MY IMPRESSION IS THAT IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF AWAGIIR TRIBE HAVE NOT YET PLEDGED SUPPORT TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. AWAGIIR OCCUPYS KEY AREA AROUND BENGHAZI FROM SOLUK TO AL ABYAR TO TOCRA AND SUPPORT OR AT MINIMUM ACQUIESCENCE

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OF ITS LEADERS SUCH AS FORMER PRIME MINISTER ABD AL QADIR AL BADRI AND SENATE PRESIDENT ABD AL HAMID AL ABBAR ARE VITAL TO SUCCESS OF REVOLUTION IN CYRENICA. SUPPORT OF ABD AL QADIR AL ALLAM OF ABAYDAAT AND HUSSEIN MAASIQ OF BARASA ALSO ESSENTIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MAY NOW BE NEGOTIATING WITH THESE MEN AND OTHER IMPORTANT LOCAL FIGURES SUCH AS BENGHAZI MAYOR MOHAMMED BEN YUNIS WHOSE NAMES ARE STILL MISSING FROM LIST OF SUPPORTERS.

3. LEADERS OF REVOLUTION IN BENGHAZI HAVE SHOWN SAME PASSION FOR ANONYMITY AS THOSE IN TRIPOLI. I HAVE MET TWO YOUNG FIRST LIEUTENANTS, QADAAFI AND JABRIL, WHO HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL BUT BOTH HAVE POLITELY BUT FIRMLY BRUSHED OFF MY ATTEMPTS TO FIND OUT WHO IS SENIOR MAN HERE. YOUNG CIVILIAN WHO CALLED AT EMBASSY OFFICE THIS MORNING ALSO REFUSED GIVE EITHER HIS NAME OR THOSE OF MEMBERS OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. MY GERMAN COLLEGUE RECEIVED SIMILAR VISIT FROM YOUNG LIEUTENANT, WHO GAVE HIM COPY OF DECLARATION SENT BENGHAZI 631 BUT REFUSED TO GIVE HIS NAME. I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT EITHER COUNCIL WANTS TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS UNTIL IT IS SURE OF SUCCESS OR THAT ITS COMPOSITION IS STILL NOT SETTLED.

4. ORIENTATION OF NEW REGIME ALSO UNCLEAR. NEWS BROADCAST CITED TRIPOLI 2119, WHICH WAS ALSO CARRIED BENGHAZI RADIO, WAS CLEARLY THREATENING FROM US POINT OF VIEW AND THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW MINOR ANTI-AMERICAN REMARKS AND GESTURES FROM SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS IN BENGHAZI. ON OTHER HAND BOTH LT QADAAFI AND REP OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WHO CALLED AT EMBASSY OFFICE TODAY WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO CONVINCE ME THAT US INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE DAMAGED BY THE REVOLUTION. GERMAN CONSUL RECEIVED SIMILAR ASSURANCES FROM HIS VISITOR. UNTIL THE NAMES AND POLICIES OF THE NEW LEADERS ARE KNOWN, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL IF THESE ASSURANCES ARE A DELIBERATE MIS-REPRESENTATION OF THE AIMS OF THE REVOLUTION IN ORDER TO QUIET US FEARS, IF THEY REPRESENT THE BELIEFS OF ONLY A FEW OF THE JUNIOR MEMBERS OF THE NEW GROUP, OR IF THEY ARE INDEED THE LONG RUN INTENTIONS OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES.
IF CURFEW LIFTS TOMORROW, I WILL ATTEMPT TO COMPARE NOTES WITH BRITISH CHARGE WAKEFIELD WHOSE TELEPHONE IS STILL OUT.

5. TRIPOLI PLEASE PASS TO DEPT AS DESIRED. BLAKE

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